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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-3504**  
**January 31, 2003**

The Honorable Michael Powell  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth St. SW  
Washington DC 20554

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Dear Chairman Powell:

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

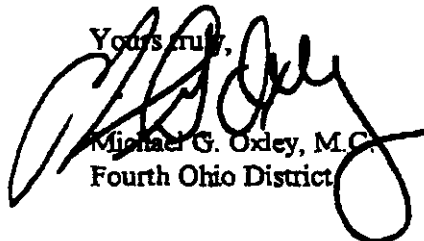
As you know, I have long been **interested** in seeing the repeal of the newspaper/broadcast cross-ownership rule. It is a matter that I **became** well-acquainted **with** during **my** service on the Telecommunications Subcommittee. Over the years, I have regularly introduced legislation in the House to eliminate this **regulatory** relic.

The media landscape in the U.S. **has** changed dramatically since **the** adoption of the rule in 1975. Consumers have multiple sources **of** information, including the **hundreds of** channels on cable and satellite television, **new** radio **stations**, **community** newspapers, and **online** **news** sites. The Commission has conducted twelve studies that attest to **the** growth in consumer choice. Your **recent** **study** **on** **the** coverage of the 2000 presidential election by co-owned newspaper and television **stations** is **further** proof of this editorial **diversity**.

The **distinctions** **between** media are becoming **increasingly** blurred in today's environment. While the Commission has **revised** other media ownership rules, the newspaper industry has **been** left **behind**, placing a potentially robust provider at a competitive disadvantage.

I **understand** **that** reply **comments** on the **broadcast** ownership regulatory review **are** due on February 3, 2003. The Commission has done an **exhaustive** review regarding the existing newspaper cross-ownership **d** e for many years, and I believe that the **evidence** validates my opinion **that** **its** removal is **justified** and **long** overdue. I urge the Commission to **carefully** review the relevance of this rule in light of **the** **new** realities in the media **industry**.

Yours truly,

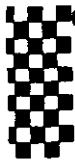
  
Michael G. Oxley, M.C.  
Fourth Ohio District

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To: The Honorable Michael Powell

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